

HINA

LEAKING ROOFS, DANGER OF FIRE SCHOOL MENACES

Rotarians Give Bad Report on All Memphis School Buildings Except Three—They Not Perfect.

Leaky roofs, insanitary equipment, inadequate attention, constant fire menace and vandalism, according to an exhaustive report read before the Rotary club Tuesday noon by Milton S. Hays, president of the club's committee of investigation.

The report, detailing at great length, the results of the committee's trip of investigation to the city of New Orleans, white and negro, made but two or three exceptions. It was signed by the following members of the committee: William R. Herstein, James A. McCreary, W. W. Weasel, John T. Morgan, Frank Sexton, George Tayloe, Enoch W. Smith, and the reporter.

"There are only three schools in the city of Memphis that we could consider as being modern," says the report, "but even these schools, with the exception of the Russell, need certain changes and improvements which, however, could be accomplished at limited expenditure and in a very short time."

"As for the balance of the schools, conditions vary from fair to impossible.

Number Inadequate

"After a careful study of the situation we find that the number of school buildings in the city of Memphis are wholly inadequate for the school population. We would advise, with a possible one or two exceptions, that every school in the city of Memphis, both white and colored, is taxed beyond its capacity, the school enrollment being 45 per cent to 150 per cent greater than the capacity of the building as originally intended.

"There has been an effort made to

overcome crowded conditions of the original buildings by the use, first of basement rooms, and then by annexes, and later by portable buildings. These improvised classrooms are condemned as being unsuitable, for they are wholly unfit, in some cases, due to improper ventilation, and in many cases improperly heated, badly lighted, and in some instances, basement rooms are possibly damp.

One very noticeable and unsatisfactory condition which exists is that in

"We find that many of the buildings are in a very bad state of repair. Carpenter work is required in practically all of the buildings, painting is needed inside and outside of all buildings, the plastering is bad in many of the buildings, numerous glass are broken and

not repaired, in a few schools, the roofs need attention, floors to many of the buildings and particularly at the older ones, are in such bad repair as to be even rotted away, and in some instances are a menace to life and limb of the children, and these conditions obtain, more or less, to all schools, with the possible exception of Rozell and Guthrie.

Need Protection.

"We recommend certain improve-

to the buildings to afford prompt fire protection and screening of all schools. We find the walls of all the schools and particularly the older ones, are dirty, and great benefit to the eye-sight of the pupils and teachers could be obtained by painting the walls with a bright nonlight absorbing paint, and we find very few of the schools are equipped with electric lights.

A great deal of waste fuel is created by failure to cover the boilers and many of the steam mains and hot air ducts with asbestos, which would also

A very serious condition obtains in that at practically every school building the fire escapes are located running along openings of windows, and which are glazed with plain clear double-strength glass, and it is highly probable that in case of fire in a room adjoining

"Possibly the uncleanly condition of the negro schools might be attributed to the inadequate compensation allowed the janitors, which naturally does not invite the highest type of janitor, nor a great deal of efficiency.

"We are of the opinion as aforesaid that the school buildings are insuffi-

We do, however, recommend that an expert of known ability be secured to make a careful survey of our school system, with particular reference to

Complete Survey Planned. The resolution adopted proposes the appointment of a committee of three to make a survey of the school housing problem, the curriculum, compensation of teachers and other pertinent information. One of the committee is

be picked from the state government, one from the national government and another from one of the high educational institutions of national reputation. This committee will report to the rotary club committee, which in turn, after reviewing it, will submit it to the Rotary club for action. The resolution places the maximum cost of this work to be paid by the club of \$250. The other resolution asks that the rotary club forward the committee's report to the school board and to the

Two other objects with which the solution deals are, first, that the ward be petitioned to make minor repairs and improvements, such as painting interior of buildings in a bright, light-absorbing color, repairs to

of and plastering of walls; second, to improve fire escapes and other fire hazards. The resolution ends with also other improvements of a character not involving great expense, such as shades, replacement of window glass, covering of steam pipes, window boards for better ventilation, etc."